

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8615

COMDT NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO COMDT INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE OF THE ARMED FORCES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NI, XA, MILI

SUBJECT: NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE NIGERIA VISIT

REF: LAGOS 2929, STATE 70051

1. AS AN INTERESTING EXAMPLE OF BUREAUCRATIC PERCOLATION, HEAD OF MEA AMERICA DEPARTMENT OLISEMEKA CALLED CHARGE MORNING APRIL 2 TO REPORT THEY HAD "ANOTHER CHAT" WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER ARIKPO WHO FELT THAT BECAUSE OF LONG ASSOCIATION WITH NWC IT WAS PITY THE COLLEGE WOULD NOT BE VISITING NIGERIA THIS YEAR. OLISEMEKA SAID THERE WAS THEREFORE STILL THE POSSIBILITY THAT NWC MIGHT BE "FITTED IN" IF ITS OWN ARRANGEMENTS WOULD PERMIT. HE SAID BECAUSE OF OTHER HEAVY DEMANDS GENERAL GOWON WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RECEIVE WAR COLLEGE GROUP AND FMG BRIEFINGS MIGHT NOT BE AS EXTENSIVE AS USUAL, BUT GROUP MIGHT BE ABLE TO VISIT ONE OR TWO STATES AS IN PAST. OLISEMEKA ASKED CHARGE WHAT CHANCE THERE MIGHT BE NWC WOULD COME UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. CHARGE RESPONDED HE THOUGHT CHANCES VIRTUALLY NIL, PARTICULARLY UNDER HEAVILY HYPOTHETICAL TERMS OLISEMEKA OFFERED THAT NWC "MIGHT" BE FITTED IN AND "MIGHT" VISIT ONE OR TWO STATES. SAID THAT IF POSITION WERE THAT NWC COULD DEFINITELY COME IF STILL INTERESTED, THE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOMEWHAT ENHANCED. HOWEVER, AS OLISEMEKA MENTIONED HIMSELF,

MARCH 25 DEADLINE WAS WELL PAST, WAR COLLEGE IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN MAKING OTHER ARRANGEMENTS, AND CHARGE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO REVERSE FIELD AT THIS TIME. CHARGE WOULD NEVERTHELESS REPORT TO WASHINGTON AND INFORM OLISEMEKA ANY FURTHER REACTION. OLISEMEKA EXPRESSED THANKS BUT DID NOT SUGGEST HIS CURRENT QUERY COULD GO BEYOND THE HYPOTHETICAL.

3. CHARGE THEN REOPENED ICAF QUESTION, EMPHASIZING KEEN ICAF DESIRE VISIT NIGERIA AND PARTICULAR INTEREST AND SATISFACTION THEY HAD FOUND HERE LAST YEAR. CHARGE POINTED OUT LATER ARRIVAL DATE FOR ICAF, DIFFERENT FOCUS OF INTEREST AND MORE MODEST LOGISTICAL DIMENSIONS, BUT AFTER STRONG PITCH, OLISEMEKA RESPONDED WITH UNEQUIVOCAL "NO, FMG IS STILL NOT IN POSITION TO HAVE ICAF."

4. COMMENTS: THIS INTERESTING POSTLUDE REINFORCES IMPRESSION FMG WOULD GENUINELY LIKE TO RECEIVE NWC BUT SCHEDULING PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN VERY GREAT. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT RECOMMEND NWC RECONSIDER NIGERIA VISIT THIS YEAR UNLESS SERIOUS PROBLEMS ARE BEING ENCOUNTERED WITH IVORY COAST ARRANGEMENTS. FMG ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE APT TO LEAVE MUCH TO BE DESIRED, AND VISIT MIGHT DETRACT FROM PREVIOUSLY OUTSTANDING MUTUAL SATISFACTION OVER THIS YEARLY EVENT.

5. GREATLY REGRET ICAF IS LEFT OUT IN THE COLD, BUT FMG APPEARS TO HAVE DECIDED TO LIMIT ITS ASSOCIATION TO NWC.
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